

VARIOUS MEASURES

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Res. 147, H. Res. 402, H. Res. 404, H.R. 1992,
H.R. 3470 and H.R. 3509**

NOVEMBER 20, 2013

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VARIOUS MEASURES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ed Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. The committee hearing will come to order. I will ask all the members at this time if you could take your seats.

Pursuant to notice, we meet today to mark up six bipartisan measures. As all members were notified previously to expedite our consideration of these items today we are going to take them up en bloc. The text previously provided to your offices by the way, you have here, and all members, if you don't have those before you, please ask the staff. We will make sure you do.

The first is House Resolution 147, calling for the release of the United States citizen Saeed Abedini from Iran, and Smith Amendment No. 40 in the nature of a substitute. Again, without objection, all of these items will be considered as read and will be considered en bloc.

The next is House Resolution 402, supporting the European aspirations of E.U. Eastern Partnership countries and Engel Amendment No. 46 in the nature of a substitute.

Next House Resolution 404 expressing condolences and support for the assistance to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Republic of the Philippines, and Royce Amendment No. 64 in that measure.

Next is H.R. 1992, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act, and Collins Amendment No. 29 in the nature of a substitute.

Then H.R. 3470 the Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act of 2013, and lastly, H.R. 3509, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, along with Royce Amendment No. 63 and Salmon Amendment No. 29 to that measure.

Without objection, all members may have 5 days to submit statements for the record and extraneous materials on any of today's measures.

And after recognizing myself and the ranking member for brief opening remarks, I will be glad to recognize any committee members seeking recognition to speak on these measures.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 147

Calling for the release of United States citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2013

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. JONES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LATTI, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LONG, and Mr. WOLF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling for the release of United States citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities.

Whereas Saeed Abedini has been sentenced to 8 years in prison in Iran after being tried for his religious beliefs and convicted for undermining the Government of Iran;

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights lists Iran as one of the countries that remains a chronic and systematic violator of religious freedom; and

Whereas in October 2012, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran has stated that a wide range of human rights violations, including illegal limits on freedom of expression, failures of legal due process, attacks on freedom of religion, and the wrongful imprisonment of children: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
3 persecution of religious minorities, including Saeed
4 Abedini;

5 (2) calls on the Government of Iran to release
6 Saeed Abedini to the United States; and

7 (3) calls on the United States Government to
8 work aggressively for the quick release of Saeed
9 Abedini by designating additional Iranian officials,
10 as appropriate, for human rights abuses pursuant to

4

3

1 section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions,
2 Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 147
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States Department of State's 2012 Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2012, states that Iran's most egregious human rights problems were the government's severe limitations on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, speech, and press, and the government's disregard for the physical integrity of persons whom it arbitrarily and unlawfully killed, tortured, and imprisoned;

Whereas in September 2012, Saeed Abedini, a Christian and resident of the State of Idaho with dual Iranian–United States citizenship, was arbitrarily detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran, held in solitary confinement, physically beaten, denied access to necessary medical treatment for months, and denied access to his lawyer until just before his trial;

Whereas in January 2013, an Iranian court accused Saeed Abedini of attempting to undermine the national security of Iran by gathering with fellow Christians in private homes;

Whereas Saeed Abedini was tried in a non-public trial before a judge who had been sanctioned by the European Union for repeated violations of human rights, including issuing long prison sentences to peaceful protestors following the 2009 election;

Whereas during the trial, Saeed Abedini and his Iranian attorney were barred from attending portions of the trial in which the prosecution provided and the judge received evidence through witness testimony;

Whereas Saeed Abedini has been sentenced to 8 years in prison in Iran after being tried for his religious beliefs;

Whereas in August 2013, the 36th branch of the Tehran appeals court denied Saeed Abedini's appeal and affirmed his 8-year sentence;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to indefinitely imprison Saeed Abedini for peacefully exercising his faith and recently moved Saeed Abedini to a prison for convicted murderers and rapists;

Whereas the Government of Iran is reportedly denying Saeed Abedini needed medication for injuries he received from repeated beatings in prison;

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance" and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights enshrines religious freedom in international law;

Whereas the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights holds that every individual shall be free from arbi-

trary arrest and detention, and that every individual bears the right to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense and to be present during the duration of his trial;

Whereas the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights further guarantees every individual the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal;

Whereas articles 13 and 23 through 27 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran provide for freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as well as the freedom to practice one's religion;

Whereas in October 2012, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran noted a wide range of human rights violations, including illegal limits on freedom of expression, failures of legal due process, attacks on freedom of religion, and the wrongful imprisonment of children;

Whereas Iran is a religiously diverse society and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran reports that religious minorities, including Nematullahi Sufi Muslims, Sunnis, Baha'is, and Christians, face human rights violations in Iran;

Whereas in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of incidents of Iranian authorities raiding religious services, detaining worshipers and religious leaders, and harassing and threatening minority religious members; and

Whereas Saeed Abedini has exhausted all legal appeals within Iran and awaits action by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
2 persecution of religious minorities, including Saeed
3 Abedini;

4 (2) calls on the Government of Iran to comply
5 with its international legal obligations and release
6 Saeed Abedini to the United States; and

7 (3) calls on the United States Government to
8 work aggressively for the quick release of Saeed
9 Abedini by designating additional Iranian officials,
10 as appropriate, for human rights abuses pursuant to
11 section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions,
12 Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010.



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 402

Supporting the European aspirations of the peoples of the European Union's Eastern Partnership countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. POE of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the European aspirations of the peoples of the European Union's Eastern Partnership countries, and for other purposes.

Whereas a democratic, prosperous, and stable Eastern Europe and Caucasus region is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas the stability and economic vitality of this region also is important to our allies in NATO and the European Union (EU);

Whereas Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus have to varying extents sought to strengthen their economic and political ties with the EU through participation in the EU's Eastern Partnership program;

Whereas closer relations with the EU through the Eastern Partnership program will promote democratic values, good governance, and economic opportunity in the region;

Whereas Ukraine may sign an EU Association Agreement, provided that it meets clear and essential EU conditions, and Moldova and Georgia may initial EU Association Agreements at the Eastern Partnership summit to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on November 28 and 29, 2013;

Whereas these EU Association Agreements contain free trade and other provisions that will create the conditions for greater economic growth and will strengthen democratic institutions and norms, bolster the rule of law, and reduce corruption in signatory states;

Whereas the EU's Eastern Partnership program and Association Agreements are voluntary associations;

Whereas all sovereign states have the right to enter into voluntary partnerships of their choosing, in keeping with their interests and values;

Whereas majorities of the populations of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and other states in the region desire closer relations with the EU;

Whereas the EU Association Agreements do not pose a threat to any nation, and all states in the region, including Russia, will benefit from the economic growth and increased rule of law and stability resulting from closer relations with the EU;

Whereas Russia has sought to dissuade Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia from initialing or signing Association Agreements with the EU;

Whereas Russia has impeded some Ukrainian imports and banned the import of Moldovan wine;

Whereas Russia has pressured Georgia, notably by erecting physical barriers along the Administrative Boundary Lines of the occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, where Russian troops continue to be stationed despite a commitment in the 2008 ceasefire agreement to withdraw to pre-conflict positions;

Whereas these actions contravene Russia's commitments under the Helsinki principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Charter of Paris, and also call into question Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments;

Whereas the European Parliament on September 12, 2013, passed a resolution expressing support for the Eastern Partnership countries;

Whereas the United States has long supported the European aspirations of the peoples of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, as well as the other Eastern Partnership countries; and

Whereas the United States believes that deepening ties with the EU will benefit these states, the wider region, and Russia, and will represent a step forward toward the realization of the vision of a democratic Europe, whole, free, and at peace: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the European aspirations of the
3 peoples of the Eastern Partnership countries;

4 (2) recognizes the significant benefits to these
5 and other countries in the Eastern Europe and

1 Caucasus region of closer economic and political ties
2 with the EU, which will spur economic growth,
3 strengthen democratic institutions and norms, and
4 bolster the rule of law in the region;

5 (3) supports the right of all sovereign states to
6 enter into voluntary partnerships of their choosing,
7 in keeping with their interests and values, and as
8 enshrined in the OSCE's Helsinki principles;

9 (4) rejects the concept of spheres of influence
10 which would divide the European continent;

11 (5) calls on the Government of Russia to re-
12 spect the rights of states to make their own sov-
13 ereign choices with regard to international partner-
14 ships, including to sign Association Agreements with
15 the EU;

16 (6) applauds the significant progress Ukraine,
17 Moldova, and Georgia have made in adopting demo-
18 cratic norms and standards, calls on these states to
19 continue to implement necessary reforms, and urges
20 Ukraine to address the remaining essential require-
21 ments for signing its Association Agreement with
22 the EU: electoral and rule of law reforms and those
23 related to selective justice, including the release of
24 ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko;

1 (7) urges the Department of State to continue
2 to work closely with our European partners and al-
3 lies to support the right of Ukraine, Moldova, and
4 Georgia to enter into voluntary partnerships of their
5 choosing, provided that any conditions are met; and

6 (8) calls on the Department of State to con-
7 tinue to support reforms in all Eastern Partnership
8 countries which will both help them meet the condi-
9 tions necessary for closer relations with the EU and
10 which also make these states more democratic, pros-
11 perous, and secure.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 402
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas a democratic, prosperous, and stable Eastern Europe and Caucasus region is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas the stability and economic vitality of this region also is important to our allies in NATO and the European Union (EU);

Whereas Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus have to varying extents sought to strengthen their economic and political ties with the EU through participation in the EU's Eastern Partnership program;

Whereas closer relations with the EU through the Eastern Partnership program will promote democratic values, good governance, and economic opportunity in the region;

Whereas Ukraine may sign an EU Association Agreement, provided that it meets clear and essential EU conditions, and Moldova and Georgia may initial EU Association Agreements at the Eastern Partnership summit to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on November 28 and 29, 2013;

Whereas these EU Association Agreements contain provisions that will create the conditions for greater economic growth and will strengthen democratic institutions and

norms, bolster the rule of law, and reduce corruption in signatory states;

Whereas the EU's Eastern Partnership program and Association Agreements are voluntary associations;

Whereas all sovereign states have the right to enter into voluntary partnerships of their choosing, in keeping with their interests and values;

Whereas majorities of the populations of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and other states in the region desire closer relations with the EU;

Whereas the EU Association Agreements do not pose a threat to any nation, and all states in the region, including Russia, will benefit from the economic growth and increased rule of law and stability resulting from closer relations with the EU;

Whereas Russia has sought to dissuade Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia from initialing or signing Association Agreements with the EU;

Whereas Russia has impeded some Ukrainian imports and banned the import of Moldovan wine;

Whereas Russia has pressured Georgia, notably by erecting physical barriers along the Administrative Boundary Lines of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, where Russian troops continue to be stationed despite a commitment in the 2008 ceasefire agreement to withdraw to pre-conflict positions;

Whereas these actions contravene Russia's commitments under the Helsinki principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Charter of Paris, and also call into question Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments;

Whereas the European Parliament on September 12, 2013, passed a resolution expressing support for the Eastern Partnership countries;

Whereas Transport Ministers from the EU and Eastern Partnership countries and representatives of the European Commission met in Luxembourg on October 9, 2013, to discuss improving transport connections between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries and endorsed the Eastern Partnership Transport Network map as well as a list of priority projects to facilitate better transportation connections among the Eastern Partnership countries and with the EU Trans-European Transport Network;

Whereas the United States has long supported the European aspirations of the peoples of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, as well as the other Eastern Partnership countries; and

Whereas the United States believes that deepening ties with the EU will benefit these states, the wider region, and Russia, and will represent a step forward toward the realization of the vision of a democratic Europe, whole, free, and at peace: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) supports the European aspirations of the
- 2 peoples of the Eastern Partnership countries;

1 (2) recognizes the significant benefits to these
2 and other countries in the Eastern Europe and
3 Caucasus region of closer economic and political ties
4 with the EU, which will spur economic growth,
5 strengthen democratic institutions and norms, and
6 bolster the rule of law in the region;

7 (3) supports the right of all sovereign states to
8 enter into voluntary partnerships of their choosing,
9 in keeping with their interests and values, and as
10 enshrined in the OSCE's Helsinki principles;

11 (4) rejects the concept of spheres of influence
12 which would divide the European continent;

13 (5) calls on the Government of Russia to re-
14 spect the rights of states to make their own sov-
15 ereign choices with regard to international partner-
16 ships, including to sign Association Agreements with
17 the EU;

18 (6) applauds the significant progress Ukraine,
19 Moldova, and Georgia have made in adopting demo-
20 cratic norms and standards, calls on these states to
21 continue to implement necessary reforms, and urges
22 Ukraine to address the remaining essential require-
23 ments for signing its Association Agreement with
24 the EU: electoral and rule of law reform and those
25 related to selective justice, including finding a mutu-

1 ally acceptable solution for the release of ex-Prime
2 Minister Yulia Tymoshenko;

3 (7) urges the Department of State to continue
4 to work closely with our European partners and al-
5 lies to support the right of Ukraine, Moldova, and
6 Georgia to enter into voluntary partnerships of their
7 choosing, provided that any conditions are met; and

8 (8) calls on the Department of State to con-
9 tinue to support reforms in all Eastern Partnership
10 countries which will both help them meet the condi-
11 tions necessary for closer relations with the EU and
12 which also make these states more democratic, pros-
13 perous, and secure.



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 404

Expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan which made landfall in the Republic of the Philippines on November 8, 2013.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan which made landfall in the Republic of the Philippines on November 8, 2013.

Whereas, on November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan—known as Yolanda in the Philippines—made landfall in the central Philippines causing massive destruction and loss of life;

Whereas, as of November 11, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan had caused nearly 2,000 deaths, although the Government of the Philippines expects the death toll and damage reports to increase in the days ahead as more information becomes available;

Whereas Typhoon Haiyan displaced at least 478,000 people, damaged 80 to 90 percent of all structures along its

path—including 28,000 homes, and affected 10 million people in 42 provinces;

Whereas 1,270 evacuation centers have been set up, serving 75,800 displaced families, and a total of over 367,000 people;

Whereas, due to the complete devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan, thousands are without access to basic supplies, including food, clean drinking water, and medical equipment;

Whereas the United States immediately committed \$20 million in assistance to support immediate response efforts, including procuring, transporting, and distributing emergency relief commodities for typhoon-affected populations;

Whereas the United States immediately dispatched disaster assistance response teams from the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of Defense to the Philippines to conduct initial damage assessments in affected areas of the Philippines, liaise with other humanitarian and government actors in the country, and recommend appropriate response options;

Whereas the Philippine Government reported that 2.5 million people are in need of food aid;

Whereas the United States is committed to helping the people of the Philippines recover and rebuild by providing \$10 million to the United Nations World Food Program for emergency food assistance to immediately reach the maximum number of affected Filipinos;

Whereas the United States Government has dispatched immediate airlift of 55 metric tons of emergency food, and

will send a total of 1,020 metric tons of food in the coming weeks;

Whereas U.S. Pacific Command forces have arrived in the Philippines and are supporting the transport of emergency relief supplies to affected areas, and are working in conjunction with the Philippine Government on search-and-rescue operations and to restore transportation links;

Whereas the Filipino-American community in the United States has taken a leadership role in organizing private disaster relief efforts to help Filipinos affected by the storm; and

Whereas the United States and the Republic of the Philippines are treaty allies and share a long history of friendship and commitment to core democratic values: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses deep sympathy to the people of
3 the Philippines for the terrible loss of life and massive
4 destruction as a result of Typhoon Haiyan;

5 (2) expresses solidarity with the people of the
6 Philippines and continued commitment to provide essential
7 assistance to help the Philippines recover
8 from this tragedy;

9 (3) expresses continuing support for relief and
10 reconstruction assistance provided by relief agencies
11 and the international community;

1 (4) commends the Filipino-American commu-
2 nity for its efforts to organize and deliver disaster
3 relief for the people of the Philippines; and

4 (5) encourages assistance by other nations and
5 organizations to alleviate the suffering of the people
6 of the Philippines and to assist them in rebuilding
7 their homes and lives.

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 404
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA

Amend the 2d clause of the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas, as of November 18, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan had caused more than 3,970 deaths, although the Government of the Philippines expects the death toll and damage reports to increase in the days ahead as more information becomes available;

Amend the 3rd clause of the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas, Typhoon Haiyan displaced over 4 million people, damaged 80 to 90 percent of all structures along its path—including more than 570,800 homes, and affected nearly 10 million people in 44 provinces;

In the 6th clause of the preamble, strike “immediately committed \$20 million” and insert “already has committed over \$37,230,000”.

Strike the 9th clause of the preamble.

Amend the 10th clause (now the 9th clause) of the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas the United States Government dispatched an immediate airlift of 55 metric tons of emergency food prod-

ucts, is working with the World Food Programme (WFP) to facilitate rapid targeted distributions of food aid, including through local and regional procurement of food, and is sending an additional 1,020 metric tons of United States food aid that had been prepositioned in Colombo, Sri Lanka and is due to arrive in the coming weeks;

Insert after the 11th clause (now the 10th clause)
of the preamble the following:

Whereas the loss of life and physical destruction in the Philippines is an especially deep cause of concern and personal tragedy for 3,400,000 Filipino-Americans—many of whom have relatives who were directly impacted by Typhoon Haiyan;

In the 13th clause of the preamble, insert before the colon the following: “, dating back to the United States liberation of the Philippines from the Japanese Army during World War II and Filipino independence on July 4, 1946”.



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1992

To amend the requirements relating to assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2013

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROYCE, and Ms. GABBARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the requirements relating to assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Israel QME Enhance-
5 ment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO**
2 **ASSESSMENT OF ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE**
3 **MILITARY EDGE OVER MILITARY THREATS.**

4 (a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED; REPORTS.—Section
5 201 of Public Law 110–429 (122 Stat. 4843; 22 U.S.C.
6 2776 note) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “an ongoing
8 basis” and inserting “a biennial basis”; and

9 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “QUADREN-
11 NIAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”; and

12 (B) in the text, by striking “Not later than
13 four years after the date on which the President
14 transmits the initial report under paragraph
15 (1), and every four years thereafter,” and in-
16 serting “Not later than one year after the date
17 of the enactment of the Israel QME Enhance-
18 ment Act, and biennially thereafter,”.

19 (b) REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
22 shall submit to Congress a report on criteria used to
23 include cyber and asymmetric threats for purposes
24 of the assessment required under section 201(a) of
25 Public Law 110–429 (122 Stat. 4843; 22 U.S.C.
26 2776 note; relating to Israel's qualitative military

1 edge over military threats to Israel) (as amended by
2 subsection (a)(1)).

3 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
4 “qualitative military edge” has the meaning given
5 the term in section 36(h) of the Arms Export Con-
6 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)).

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1992
OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF GEORGIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Israel QME Enhance-
3 ment Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO
5 ASSESSMENT OF ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE
6 MILITARY EDGE OVER MILITARY THREATS.**

7 (a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED; REPORTS.—Section
8 201 of Public Law 110–429 (122 Stat. 4843; 22 U.S.C.
9 2776 note) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “an ongoing
11 basis” and inserting “a biennial basis”; and

12 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

13 (A) in the heading, by striking “QUADREN-
14 NIAL” and inserting “BIENNIAL”; and

15 (B) in the text, by striking “Not later than
16 four years after the date on which the President
17 transmits the initial report under paragraph
18 (1), and every four years thereafter,” and in-

1 serting “Not later than one year after the date
2 of the enactment of the Israel QME Enhance-
3 ment Act, and biennially thereafter,”.

4 (b) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of State shall submit to the appropriate congress-
8 sional committees a report on—

9 (A) the range of cyber and asymmetric
10 threats posed to Israel by state and non-state
11 actors; and

12 (B) the joint efforts of the United States
13 and Israel to address the threats identified in
14 subparagraph (A).

15 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
16 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
17 but may contain a classified annex.

18 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
19 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
20 propriate congressional committees” means the
21 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
23 tions of the Senate.



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3470

To provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign
countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amend-
6 ments Act of 2013”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN
RECIPIENTS

Sec. 101. Transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

TITLE II—ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS

Sec. 201. Increase in congressional notification thresholds.

Sec. 202. Licensing of certain commerce-controlled items.

Sec. 203. Amendments relating to removal of items from the United States Munitions List.

Sec. 204. Amendment to definition of “security assistance” under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Sec. 205. Amendments to definitions of “defense article” and “defense service” under the Arms Export Control Act.

Sec. 206. Revision of statutory references to former NATO support organizations and related NATO agreements.

Sec. 207. Technical amendments.

1 **TITLE I—TRANSFER OF NAVAL** 2 **VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOR-** 3 **EIGN RECIPIENTS**

4 **SEC. 101. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOR-** 5 **EIGN RECIPIENTS.**

6 (a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT.—The President is au-
7 thorized to transfer vessels to foreign countries on a grant
8 basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of
9 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

10 (1) MEXICO.—To the Government of Mexico,
11 the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile
12 frigates USS CURTS (FFG-38) and USS
13 MCCLUSKY (FFG-41).

14 (2) THAILAND.—To the Government of Thai-
15 land, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided
16 missile frigates USS RENTZ (FFG-46) and USS
17 VANDEGRIFT (FFG-48).

1 (b) TRANSFER BY SALE.—The President is author-
2 ized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class
3 guided missile frigates USS TAYLOR (FFG-50), USS
4 GARY (FFG-51), USS CARR (FFG-52), and USS
5 ELROD (FFG-55) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural
6 Representative Office of the United States (which is the
7 Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section
8 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a)))
9 on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Con-
10 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2761).

11 (c) ALTERNATIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Not-
12 withstanding the authority provided in subsections (a) and
13 (b) to transfer specific vessels to specific countries, the
14 President is authorized, subject to the same conditions
15 that would apply for such country under this Act, to trans-
16 fer any vessel named in this Act to any country named
17 in this Act such that the total number of vessels trans-
18 ferred to such country does not exceed the total number
19 of vessels authorized for transfer to such country by this
20 Act.

21 (d) GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF
22 TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—The value
23 of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis
24 pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) or (c)
25 shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess

1 defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under sec-
2 tion 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
3 2321j).

4 (e) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by
5 the United States in connection with a transfer authorized
6 by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwith-
7 standing section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
8 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

9 (f) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED
10 STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent prac-
11 ticable, the President shall require, as a condition of the
12 transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient
13 to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or re-
14 furbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel
15 joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a
16 shipyard located in the United States, including a United
17 States Navy shipyard.

18 (g) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to
19 transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end
20 of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act.

**TITLE II—ARMS EXPORT
CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS**

SEC. 201. INCREASE IN CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

THRESHOLDS.

(a) FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”;

(ii) by striking “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$300,000,000”; and

(iii) by striking “\$14,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(B) in the matter following subparagraph (P)—

(i) by inserting “of any defense articles or defense services under this Act for \$200,000,000 or more, any design and construction services for \$300,000,000 or more, or any major defense equipment for \$75,000,000 or more,” after “The letter of

1 offer shall not be issued, with respect to a
2 proposed sale”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “of any defense arti-
4 cles or services under this Act for
5 \$100,000,000 or more, any design and
6 construction services for \$200,000,000 or
7 more, or any major defense equipment for
8 \$50,000,000 or more,” after “or with re-
9 spect to a proposed sale”.

10 (2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
11 MENTS.—Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control
12 Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is amended—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Subject
14 to paragraph (6), in” and inserting “In”;

15 (B) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking “Sub-
16 ject to paragraph (6), if” and inserting “If”;
17 and

18 (C) by striking paragraph (6).

19 (b) COMMERCIAL SALES.—Section 36(c) of the Arms
20 Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(c)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)—

22 (A) by striking “Subject to paragraph (5),
23 in” and inserting “In”;

24 (B) by striking “\$14,000,000” and insert-
25 ing “\$25,000,000”; and

1 (C) by striking “\$50,000,000” and insert-
2 ing “\$100,000,000”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after
5 “for an export” the following: “of any major
6 defense equipment sold under a contract in the
7 amount of \$75,000,000 or more or of defense
8 articles or defense services sold under a con-
9 tract in the amount of \$200,000,000 or more,
10 (or, in the case of a defense article that is a
11 firearm controlled under category I of the
12 United States Munitions List, \$1,000,000 or
13 more)”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting after
15 “license” the following: “for an export of any
16 major defense equipment sold under a contract
17 in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more or of de-
18 fense articles or defense services sold under a
19 contract in the amount of \$100,000,000 or
20 more, (or, in the case of a defense article that
21 is a firearm controlled under category I of the
22 United States Munitions List, \$1,000,000 or
23 more)”;

24 (3) by striking paragraph (5); and

1 (4) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-
2 graph (5).

3 **SEC. 202. LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CON-**
4 **TROLLED ITEMS.**

5 Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22
6 U.S.C. 2778) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(k) LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CON-
9 TROLLED ITEMS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A license or other approval
11 from the Department of State granted in accordance
12 with this section may also authorize the export of
13 items subject to the Export Administration Regula-
14 tions if such items are to be used in or with defense
15 articles controlled on the United States Munitions
16 List.

17 “(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The following
18 requirements shall apply with respect to a license or
19 other approval to authorize the export of items sub-
20 ject to the Export Administration Regulations under
21 paragraph (1):

22 “(A) Separate approval from the Depart-
23 ment of Commerce shall not be required for
24 such items if such items are approved for ex-

1 port under a Department of State license or
2 other approval.

3 “(B) Such items subject to the Export Ad-
4 ministration Regulations that are exported pur-
5 suant to a Department of State license or other
6 approval would remain under the jurisdiction of
7 the Department of Commerce with respect to
8 any subsequent transactions.

9 “(C) The inclusion of the term ‘subject to
10 the EAR’ or any similar term on a Department
11 of State license or approval shall not affect the
12 jurisdiction with respect to such items.

13 “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
14 ‘Export Administration Regulations’ means—

15 “(A) the Export Administration Regula-
16 tions as maintained and amended under the au-
17 thority of the International Emergency Eco-
18 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

19 “(B) any successor regulations.”.

20 **SEC. 203. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REMOVAL OF ITEMS**
21 **FROM THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.**

22 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF MAJOR DE-
23 FENSE EQUIPMENT AND SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EQUIP-
24 MENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—

1 Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C.
2 2778(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
4 (B), the President shall take such actions as may be
5 necessary to ensure that any major defense equip-
6 ment or significant military equipment that is re-
7 moved from the United States Munitions List and
8 transferred to the Commerce Control List for pur-
9 poses of commercial export is not subsequently
10 modified so as to transform such equipment into a
11 defense article.

12 “(B) The President may authorize the trans-
13 formation of major defense equipment or significant
14 military equipment that is removed from the United
15 States Munitions List and transferred to the Com-
16 merce Control List for purposes of commercial ex-
17 port into a defense article if the President—

18 “(i) determines that such transformation is
19 appropriate and in the national interests of the
20 United States; and

21 “(ii) provides notice of such transformation
22 to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign
23 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
24 chairman of the Committee on Foreign Rela-
25 tions of the Senate consistent with the notifica-

1 tion requirements of section 36(b)(5)(A) of this
2 Act.

3 “(C) In this paragraph—

4 “(i) the term ‘Commerce Control List’
5 means—

6 “(I) items transferred from the
7 United States Munitions List to the Com-
8 merce Control List and designated as ‘600
9 series’ items on the Commerce Control List
10 under the Export Administration Regula-
11 tions, as proposed by the Bureau of Indus-
12 try and Security of the Department of
13 Commerce on July 15, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg.
14 41958); or

15 “(II) any successor regulations; and

16 “(ii) the term ‘defense article’ means an
17 item designated by the President pursuant to
18 subsection (a)(1).”.

19 (b) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
20 FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND SIGNIFICANT
21 MILITARY EQUIPMENT REMOVED FROM THE UNITED
22 STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Ex-
23 port Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)), as amended by this
24 section, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(6) The President shall ensure that any item
2 that is major defense equipment or significant mili-
3 tary equipment and is removed from the United
4 States Munitions List shall continue to be subject to
5 the notification and reporting requirements of the
6 following provisions of law:

7 “(A) Section 516(f) of the Foreign Assist-
8 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(f)).

9 “(B) Section 655 of the Foreign Assist-
10 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2415).

11 “(C) Section 3(d)(3)(A) of this Act.

12 “(D) Section 25 of this Act.

13 “(E) Sections 36(b), (c), and (d) of this
14 Act.”.

15 **SEC. 204. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF “SECURITY AS-**
16 **SISTANCE” UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSIST-**
17 **ANCE ACT OF 1961.**

18 Section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
19 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (2)(C) to read as follows:

23 “(C) any license in effect with respect to
24 the export to or for the armed forces, police, in-

1 telligence, or other internal security forces of a
2 foreign country of—

3 “(i) defense articles or defense serv-
4 ices under section 38 of the Armed Export
5 Control Act; or

6 “(ii) ‘600 series’ items on the Com-
7 merce Control List under the Export Ad-
8 ministration Regulations, as proposed by
9 the Bureau of Industry and Security of the
10 Department of Commerce on July 15,
11 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 41958), or any suc-
12 cessor regulations;” and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new
14 paragraphs:

15 “(3) the term ‘Commerce Control List’
16 means—

17 “(A) items transferred from the United
18 States Munitions List to the Commerce Control
19 List and designated as ‘600 series’ items on the
20 Commerce Control List under the Export Ad-
21 ministration Regulations, as proposed by the
22 Bureau of Industry and Security of the Depart-
23 ment of Commerce on July 15, 2011 (76 Fed.
24 Reg. 41958); or

25 “(B) any successor regulations; and

1 “(4) the term ‘Export Administration Regula-
2 tions’ means—

3 “(A) the Export Administration Regula-
4 tions as maintained and amended under the au-
5 thority of the International Emergency Eco-
6 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

7 “(B) any successor regulations.”.

8 **SEC. 205. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS OF “DEFENSE AR-**
9 **TICLE” AND “DEFENSE SERVICE” UNDER THE**
10 **ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.**

11 Section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22
12 U.S.C. 2794) is amended—

13 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)
14 of paragraph (3), by striking “includes” and insert-
15 ing “means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the
16 United States under the authority of this Act or any
17 other foreign assistance or sales program of the
18 United States”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “includes”
20 and inserting “means, with respect to a sale or
21 transfer by the United States under the authority of
22 this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales pro-
23 gram of the United States,”.

1 **SEC. 206. REVISION OF STATUTORY REFERENCES TO**
 2 **FORMER NATO SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS**
 3 **AND RELATED NATO AGREEMENTS.**

4 Section 21(e)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act (22
 5 U.S.C. 2761(e)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraphs (A) and (C)(i), by striking
 7 “Maintenance and Supply Agency of the North At-
 8 lantic Treaty Organization” and inserting “North
 9 Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Support Or-
 10 ganization and its executive agencies”; and

11 (2) in subparagraph (C)(i)(II), by striking “a
 12 specific weapon system” and inserting “activities”.

13 **SEC. 207. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

14 The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et
 15 seq.) is amended—

16 (1) in sections 3(a), 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 3(e),
 17 5(c), 6, 21(g), 36(a), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C),
 18 36(c)(1), 36(f), 38(f)(1), 40(f)(1), 40(g)(2)(B),
 19 101(b), and 102(a)(2), by striking “the Speaker of
 20 the House of Representatives and” each place it ap-
 21 pears and inserting “the Speaker of the House of
 22 Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs
 23 of the House of Representatives, and”;

24 (2) in section 21(i)(1) by inserting after “the
 25 Speaker of the House of Representatives” the fol-

1 lowing “, the Committees on Foreign Affairs and
2 Armed Services of the House of Representatives,”;

3 (3) in sections 25(e), 38(f)(2), 38(j)(3), and
4 38(j)(4)(B), by striking “International Relations”
5 each place it appears and inserting “Foreign Af-
6 fairs”;

7 (4) in sections 27(f) and 62(a), by inserting
8 after “the Speaker of the House of Representa-
9 tives,” each place it appears the following: “the
10 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives,”; and

12 (5) in section 73(e)(2), by striking “the Com-
13 mittee on National Security and the Committee on
14 International Relations of the House of Representa-
15 tives” and inserting “the Committee on Armed Serv-
16 ices and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
17 House of Representatives”.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3509

To direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RADEL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BASS, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Assessing Progress in
5 Haiti Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On January 12, 2010, a massive earth-
2 quake struck near the Haitian capital city of Port-
3 au-Prince, leaving an estimated 316,000 people
4 dead, including 103 United States citizens, 101
5 United Nations personnel, and nearly 18 percent of
6 the nation's civil service, as well as 300,000 injured,
7 115,000 homes destroyed, and 2,000,000 people dis-
8 placed.

9 (2) According to the Post Disaster Needs As-
10 sessment conducted by the Government of Haiti,
11 with technical assistance from the United Nations,
12 the World Bank, the Inter-American Development
13 Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America
14 and the Caribbean, and the European Commission,
15 an estimated 15 percent of the population were di-
16 rectly affected by the disaster and related damages
17 and economic losses totaled \$7,804,000,000.

18 (3) Even before the earthquake, Haiti had some
19 of the lowest socioeconomic indicators and the sec-
20 ond highest rate of income disparity in the world,
21 conditions that have further complicated post-earth-
22 quake recovery efforts and, according to the World
23 Bank, have significantly reduced the prospects of
24 economic growth spurring broader poverty reduction.

1 (4) Today, according to the United Nations, the
2 Government of Haiti, Haitian civil society, and
3 international nongovernmental organizations, more
4 than 8,000,000 people in Haiti, out of a population
5 of approximately 10,000,000, continue to struggle to
6 meet their food security needs as a result of the
7 earthquake, tropical storms and hurricanes, rising
8 global food prices, and long term neglect of the agri-
9 cultural sector.

10 (5) In October 2010, an unprecedented out-
11 break of cholera in Haiti resulted in over half a mil-
12 lion reported cases and over 8,000 deaths to date,
13 further straining the capacity of Haiti's public
14 health sector and increasing the urgency of resettlement
15 and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
16 efforts.

17 (6) The international community, led by the
18 United States and the United Nations, mounted an
19 unprecedented humanitarian response in Haiti, with
20 donors pledging approximately \$14,000,000,000 for
21 humanitarian relief and recovery efforts, including
22 debt relief, supplemented by \$3,100,000,000 in private
23 charitable contributions, of which approximately
24 \$6,400,000,000 has been disbursed and an addi-

1 tional \$3,800,000,000 has been committed as of
2 September 30, 2013.

3 (7) The emergency response of the men and
4 women of the United States Government, led by the
5 United States Agency for International Development
6 (USAID) and the United States Southern Com-
7 mand, as well as of cities, towns, individuals, busi-
8 nesses, and philanthropic organizations across the
9 United States, was particularly swift and resolute.

10 (8) Since 2010, a total of \$1,300,000,000 in
11 United States assistance has been allocated for hu-
12 manitarian relief and \$2,300,000,000 has been allo-
13 cated for recovery, reconstruction, and development
14 assistance in Haiti, including \$1,140,000,000 in
15 emergency appropriations and \$95,000,000 that has
16 been obligated specifically to respond to the cholera
17 epidemic.

18 (9) Of the \$3,600,000,000 in United States as-
19 sistance allocated for Haiti, \$651,000,000 was ap-
20 portioned to the USAID to support an ambitious re-
21 covery plan, including the construction of a power
22 plant to provide electricity for the new Caracol In-
23 dustrial Park (CIP) in northern Haiti, a new port
24 near the CIP, and permanent housing in new settle-

1 ments in the Port-au-Prince, St-Marc, and Cap-
2 Haïtien areas.

3 (10) On October 9, 2013, the Committee on
4 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives held
5 an oversight hearing on the status and effectiveness
6 of post-earthquake United States aid to Haiti, fol-
7 lowing a House of Representatives-mandated, year-
8 long Government Accountability Office (GAO) report
9 that was highly critical of some aspects of USAID's
10 recovery effort.

11 (11) According to GAO, as of June 30, 2013,
12 USAID had disbursed just 35 percent of its recon-
13 struction funds in Haiti, the port project was 2
14 years behind schedule and over budget by an esti-
15 mated \$189,000,000, the housing project has been
16 reduced by 80 percent, and the sustainability of the
17 power plant, the port, and the housing projects were
18 all at risk.

19 (12) GAO further found that Congress has not
20 been provided with sufficient information to ensure
21 that it is able to conduct effective oversight at a
22 time when most funding remains to be disbursed,
23 and specifically recommends that a periodic report-
24 ing mechanism be instituted to fill this information
25 gap.

1 (13) Donors have encountered significant chal-
2 lenges in implementing recovery programs and near-
3 ly 4 years after the earthquake an estimated
4 279,000 people remain displaced in camps, unem-
5 ployment remains high, corruption is rampant, land
6 rights remain elusive, allegations of wage violations
7 are widespread, the business climate is unfavorable,
8 and government capacity remains weak.

9 (14) For Haiti to achieve stability and long
10 term economic growth, donor assistance will have to
11 be carefully coordinated with a commitment by the
12 Haitian Government to transparency, a market
13 economy, rule of law, and democracy.

14 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

15 It is the policy of the United States to support the
16 sustainable rebuilding and development of Haiti in a man-
17 ner that—

18 (1) promotes efforts that are led by and sup-
19 port the Haitian people and the Haitian Government
20 at all levels so that Haitians lead the course of re-
21 construction and development of Haiti;

22 (2) builds the long term capacity of the Govern-
23 ment of Haiti and Haitian civil society;

1 (3) reflects the priorities and particular needs
2 of both women and men so they may participate
3 equally and to their maximum capacity;

4 (4) respects and helps restore Haiti's natural
5 resources, as well as builds community-level resili-
6 ence to environmental and weather-related impacts;

7 (5) provides timely and comprehensive reporting
8 on goals and progress, as well as transparent post
9 program evaluations and contracting data;

10 (6) prioritizes the local procurement of goods
11 and services in Haiti where appropriate; and

12 (7) promotes the holding of free, fair, and time-
13 ly elections in accordance with democratic principles
14 and the Haitian Constitution.

15 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act and every 180 days
18 thereafter through September 30, 2016, the Secretary of
19 State shall submit to Congress a report on the status of
20 post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in
21 Haiti.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection
23 (a) shall include—

24 (1) a summary of the Haiti Rebuilding and De-
25 velopment Strategy, including any significant modi-

1 fications to the strategy over the reporting period
2 and an explanation thereof;

3 (2) a breakdown of the work that the United
4 States Government agencies other than USAID and
5 the Department of State are conducting in the Haiti
6 recovery effort, and the cost of that assistance;

7 (3) an assessment of the progress of United
8 States efforts to advance the objectives of the Haiti
9 Rebuilding and Development Strategy through the
10 “Post-Earthquake USG Haiti Strategy: Toward Re-
11 newal and Economic Opportunity” produced by the
12 Department of State, compared to what remains to
13 be achieved to meet specific goals, including—

14 (A) a description of any significant
15 changes to the Strategy over the reporting pe-
16 riod and an explanation thereof;

17 (B) an assessment of progress, or lack
18 thereof, over the reporting period toward meet-
19 ing the goals and objectives, benchmarks, and
20 timeframes specified in the Strategy, includ-
21 ing—

22 (i) a description of progress toward
23 designing and implementing a coordinated
24 and sustainable housing reconstruction
25 strategy that addresses land ownership, se-

1 cure land tenure, water and sanitation,
2 and the unique concerns of vulnerable pop-
3 ulations such as women and children, as
4 well as neighborhood and community revi-
5 talization, housing finance, and capacity
6 building for the Government of Haiti to
7 implement an effective housing policy;

8 (ii) a description of efforts to con-
9 struct and sustain the proposed port, as
10 well as an assessment of the current pro-
11 jected timeline and cost for completion;
12 and

13 (iii) a description of efforts to attract
14 and leverage the investments of private
15 sector partners to the CIP, including by
16 addressing any policy impediments;

17 (C) a description of the quantitative and
18 qualitative indicators used to evaluate the
19 progress toward meeting the goals and objec-
20 tives, benchmarks, and timeframes specified in
21 Strategy at the project level;

22 (D) the amounts committed, obligated, and
23 expended on programs and activities to imple-
24 ment the Strategy, by sector and by imple-

1 menting partner at the principal and sub-
2 recipient levels, where practicable; and

3 (E) a description of the risk mitigation
4 measures put in place to limit the exposure of
5 United States assistance provided under the
6 Strategy to abuse and mismanagement;

7 (4) a description of measures taken to strength-
8 en, and an assessment of, Haitian governmental and
9 non-governmental organizational capacity to under-
10 take and sustain United States-supported recovery
11 programs;

12 (5) a description of United States efforts to
13 consult and engage with Haitian Government min-
14 istries and local authorities on the establishment of
15 goals and timeframes, and on the design and imple-
16 mentation of new programs under the Haiti Rebuild-
17 ing and Development Strategy;

18 (6) a description of efforts to consult and en-
19 gage with Haitian civil society and grassroots orga-
20 nizations on the establishment of goals and time-
21 frames, and on the design and implementation of
22 new programs under the Haiti Rebuilding and De-
23 velopment Strategy, as well as efforts to coordinate
24 with and engage the Haitian diaspora;

1 (7) consistent with the Government of Haiti's
2 ratification of the United Nations Convention
3 Against Corruption, a description of United States
4 and Haitian Government efforts to strengthen Hai-
5 tian Government institutions established to address
6 corruption, as well as related efforts to promote pub-
7 lic accountability, meet public outreach and disclo-
8 sure obligations, and support civil society participa-
9 tion in anti-corruption efforts;

10 (8) a description of efforts to leverage public-
11 private partnerships and increase the involvement of
12 the Haitian private sector in recovery and develop-
13 ment activities and coordinate programs with the
14 private sector and other donors;

15 (9) a description and assessment of efforts to
16 give priority to the particular needs and views of vul-
17 nerable populations, including internally displaced
18 persons, women, children, orphans, and persons with
19 disabilities, in the design and implementation of new
20 programs and infrastructure;

21 (10) an assessment of the impact that agri-
22 culture and infrastructure programs are having on
23 the food security, livelihoods, and land tenure secu-
24 rity of smallholder farmers, particularly women;

1 (11) a description of mechanisms for commu-
2 nating the progress of recovery and development
3 efforts to the Haitian people, including a description
4 of efforts to provide documentation, reporting and
5 procurement information in Haitian Creole; and

6 (12) a description of the steps Haiti is taking
7 to strengthen its capacity to receive individuals who
8 are removed, excluded, or deported from the United
9 States.

○

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3509
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA

In section 2(1), strike “316,000” and insert “220,000”.

In section 2(1), strike “2,000,000” and insert “1,500,000”.

Strike section 2(4) and insert the following:

1 (4) According to the World Food Program,
2 more than 6,700,000 people in Haiti (out of a popu-
3 lation of about 10,000,000) are considered food inse-
4 cure nationally.

In section 2(6), strike “\$14,000,000,000” and insert “\$10,400,000,000”.

In section 2(11), strike “35 percent” and insert “31 percent”.

In section 2(13), strike “279,000” and insert “171,974”.

In section 4(b)(1), strike “modifications” and insert “changes”.

In section 4(b)(3)(D), strike “principle and sub-recipient levels, where practicable” and insert “prime and subprime levels (in amounts of not less than \$25,000)”.

In section 4(b)(5), strike “Haiti Rebuilding and Development Strategy” and insert “Post-Earthquake USG Haiti Strategy: Toward Renewal and Economic Opportunity”.

In section 4(b)(6), strike “Haiti Rebuilding and Development Strategy” and insert “Post-Earthquake USG Haiti Strategy: Toward Renewal and Economic Opportunity”.

In section 4(b)(9), strike “give priority to” and insert “address”.

In section 4(b)(9), strike “and views”.

In section 4(b)(10), strike “assessment” and insert “description”.



AMENDMENT TO H.R.
OFFERED BY MR. SALMON OF ARIZONA

Redesignate section 4 as section 5.

Insert after section 3 the following:

1 SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

2 It is the sense of Congress that transparency, ac-
3 countability, democracy, and good governance are integral
4 factors in any congressional decision regarding United
5 States assistance, including assistance to Haiti.

Page 10, line 6, strike “abuse and mismanagement”
and insert “waste, fraud, and abuse”.



Chairman ROYCE. Now first, I would like to recognize myself in support for House Resolution 404. This is the bipartisan resolution I authored that expresses condolences to the victims of the super typhoon that hit the Philippines. And 12 days ago, what was one of the worst, worst typhoons on record, unleashed a torrent of destruction on the central Philippines so complete that it is very difficult for us to comprehend. As of today, the death toll stands over 4,000 with more than 4 million people displaced on the islands. Over ½ million homes have been destroyed in the hardest hit areas.

This bipartisan resolution expresses our condolences. The United States is committed to helping the Philippines. To date, the U.S. Government has allocated over \$37 million to this effort. The USS *George Washington* is stationed offshore and is conducting around-the-clock efforts to transport relief supplies and emergency workers to affected areas. In fact, more than 750,000 pounds of supplies have already been delivered. The municipal water pumping station in Tacloban is now operational again, thanks to the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and thanks to the efforts of the Department of Defense.

The resolution also recognizes the important role of the Filipino-American community in the relief effort. Many in the community were directly affected by the typhoon with friends and family still unaccounted for. Indeed, the community has come together to raise funds and donated needed supplies. Some have even traveled to the Philippines to help there. Filipino-Americans are rightfully proud of their heritage, and they are committed to helping those affected by the typhoon recover and rebuild.

The U.S. stands with the Philippines during its time of need. As the good people of the Philippines begin the difficult journey to recovery, the American people are here to lend our friendship and support.

Second, we consider H.R. 3470, the Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act. This bill grants the Navy authority to transfer excess U.S. naval vessels to our East Asian partners, to Taiwan and Thailand, as well as to neighboring Mexico. By doing so, we help the Navy manage its inventory of decommissioned ships while strengthening the ties with U.S. security partners.

Because the Navy will no longer have to store these vessels, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill will save taxpayers \$40 million.

In addition, the recipient countries will pay for the refurbishment and upkeep of those transferred frigates, which is expected to result in a \$50 million economic benefit for American workers per frigate who will do the work. This bill also helps expedite routine U.S. arms sales to NATO and other defense partners while maintaining appropriate congressional oversight.

Third, we also take up Mr. Collins' bill. This is 1992, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act. And I want to recognize Mr. Collins for his leadership on this important piece of legislation, a testament to the American people's enduring commitment to Israel's security.

In 2008, Congress required the President to assess, on an ongoing basis, the extent to which Israel possesses a qualitative military edge over threats against it, which, as we know, are all too real.

Currently, this assessment is done every 4 years and focuses on conventional military threats. This bill would require the Congress receive this assessment on a more timely basis, every 2 years, and would require the administration to specify in a separate, one-time report how it is integrating cyber and asymmetric threats to Israel into its overall security assistance framework.

Next we have H.R. 3509, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, which is a bipartisan product of thorough committee work. Last summer, the committee received a GAO report detailing the startling lack of progress on U.S.-funded post-earthquake reconstruction efforts on the island. The committee followed up by sending a bipartisan delegation of staff to investigate, and then held a hearing on Haiti reconstruction where members asked tough questions about USAID efforts.

One recommendation we heard over and over was that Congress needs better and more frequent reporting to ensure that we are being kept up to date on reconstruction activities and so that Con-

gress can provide tough oversight at a time when much of the funding for Haiti is yet to be spent. And this bill does just that.

So I commend Representatives Barbara Lee, Ranking Member Engel, Chairman Ros-Lehtinen and Chairman Salmon for their focus on Haiti and for working in a bipartisan fashion to craft strong oversight legislation.

Next, I would like to thank Ranking Member Engel for his work on House Resolution 402 to support the European aspirations of the Eastern Partnership countries. The EU's upcoming Eastern Partnership summit, which will take place in Lithuania, represents an important step in the development of the three Eastern Partnership countries of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

The association agreement these countries plan to sign will deepen our diplomatic and economic ties with EU, representing not only a significant upgrade in their engagement with the West, but also a valuable opportunity for job creation, for economic growth as well. These agreements will encourage the countries to continue their democratic reform efforts, a foreign policy interest shared by the United States.

And, lastly, I want to voice my support for House Resolution 147 which presses for the release and safe return of Pastor Saeed Abedini to his wife and young children.

While the administration negotiations are ongoing as we try to negotiate with Iran in what a number of us are concerned might be a bad nuclear deal in Geneva this week, Iran continues to suppress minorities and persecute U.S. citizens. The case of this pastor is a particularly egregious example. This Iranian-born American is wasting away in Iran's prison system and is said to be suffering from beatings. We take it seriously because of the hundreds of executions that have been carried out over the last 100 or so days in Iran. And this critical resolution presses for his release and calls on the administration to impose sanctions on those responsible for his imprisonment and for the regime's broader suppression of religious minorities.

Many of you know the fate of the Baha'i there, the fate of the Christian community, the fate of some of the Jewish community and so forth and other minority sects in Iran.

I will now recognize the ranking member, Mr. Engel, for his remarks.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for holding this markup and for advancing these important pieces of legislation.

I concur with your remarks, and I, again, commend you for the bipartisan way that we are conducting this committee.

Firstly, I strongly support H. Res. 147 which calls on Iran to release Saeed Abedini, an American citizen and Christian pastor. Mr. Abedini has been imprisoned in Iran since September 2012 because the paranoid regime in Tehran believes that his Christian faith poses a threat to national security. He has been abused and tortured by Iranian authorities and denied medical care. And I hope the State Department and our friends in the international community will continue to raise this case directly and publicly with Iran as we all work to return him home safely.

Next, I strongly support H. Res. 402, a resolution I authored that supports the European aspiration of states in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region that belong to the European Union's Eastern Partnership program.

Specifically, we support the right of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia to exercise their sovereign right to deepen their economic and political ties with the European Union. Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia may conclude agreements with the EU at the end of the month—this month, which will strengthen democratic institutions, spur economic growth and bolster the rule of law, that is the three countries Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. As such, they will benefit the region and pose no threat to any other state. We urge all nations to respect the right of these states to enter into beneficial partnerships of their choosing. We urge all nations, especially Russia.

At the same time, we urge Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia to continue their laudable reform efforts to continue to adopt democratic norms and standards and to meet remaining essential conditions for closer relations with the European Union.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have introduced with you H. Res. 404, a resolution expressing deep sympathy and support to the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan. You and I both visited the Philippines together in January, and we know that people there are suffering and really rely on the United States for help.

This resolution expresses the commitment of the United States to provide assistance to help the people of the Philippines recover from this disaster and support for relief and reconstruction assistance provided by the international community. The typhoon that struck earlier this month caused massive destruction and killed thousands of people. And our thoughts and prayers go out to the survivors and to the families who lost loved ones because of the storm.

The Philippines is a close friend and treaty ally of the United States, and we will continue our efforts to assist the Government and the people of the Philippines in the recovery.

When we were in the Philippines, Mr. Chairman, we had an excellent meeting with President Aquino of the Philippines who is, of course, struggling to make his people whole again.

I also support H.R. 1992, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act. I thank Mr. Collins and Mr. Schneider for their role in crafting this critical piece of legislation. Helping Israel to maintain its qualitative military edge is critical to ensure our closest ally in the region has the resources necessary to protect itself from countries such as Iran and others committed to its destruction.

Specifically, this bill improves upon legislation previously passed by this committee by strengthening reporting requirements which will give Congress greater oversight over QME efforts. In addition, the legislation clarifies that cyber threats must be included in our qualitative military edge assessment effort.

Again, I would like to thank Congressman Schneider and Congressman Collins for their work on this bill and strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

I also support H.R. 3470, another bipartisan bill that exercises and therefore preserves, the committee's jurisdiction in two areas:

Naval ship transfers and controls on military exports. The bill authorizes the transfer of six surplus U.S. Navy warships to three countries, two by grant to Mexico and Thailand, and four by sale to Taiwan. The bill also amends the Armed Export Control Act to update the dollar thresholds with congressional review of and proposed military transfers to other governments.

In addition, the bill amends the AECA to preserve congressional oversight over military transfers that will be made under the administration's export control reform initiative.

And, finally, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3509, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2013. This legislation should be understood as another step in the ongoing work of this committee to exercise oversight over U.S. assistance provided to Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating January 2010 earthquake. We commissioned a GAO report on that assistance which found, among other things, that the administration was not providing sufficient information to the Congress to fulfill its oversight role. We also sent a bipartisan staff delegation to look into the problems GAO found and held a full committee hearing on that matter.

H.R. 3509 seeks to fill the information gap by requiring the State Department to report on various aspects of our assistance program. It also includes the statement of policy that articulates the direction we think that assistance program should take. I would like to thank Barbara Lee, the original author of the bill, for her vision and tenacity for keeping the Haiti issue in front of us as well as Chairman Royce for his work on this bill. And this comes piggybacked on to a very important PEPFAR bill we passed yesterday on the floor of the House, which will benefit Africa and benefit Haiti as well.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman Royce for holding this markup and for working in a bipartisan way on all of the measures before us today. And I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Engel, and thank you for your important contribution to today's legislation.

We are going to go now to any member seeking recognition to speak on the en bloc items. And Ileana Ros-Lehtinen from Florida, chairman of the Middle East Subcommittee.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much. And Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to support all of these bipartisan measures and briefly speak on a few.

Last week, our subcommittee unanimously passed House Resolution 147 calling on the release of U.S. citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning Iran for its persecution of religious minorities. Pastor Saeed Abedini has been sentenced to 8 years in prison simply for being a Christian and practicing his faith in Iran. Earlier this month, Saeed was transferred to a notorious prison reserved for Iran's most violent criminals. His life is in danger on a daily basis, and he is being denied the critical medical care that he needs.

Passing this resolution will send a strong signal of support to Saeed and his family that we have not forgotten him and that we will continue to fight for his safe and immediate return and will also send a message to the regime in Tehran that its violations of human rights will not be ignored and it will be held to account.

As the negotiations continue with Iran over its nuclear program, it is important to highlight just what kind of regime the administration is prepared to ease sanctions on in return for empty promises.

Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism, is a gross violator of human rights that systematically violates and persecutes religious minorities and cracks down on civil rights.

I also support H.R. 1992, the Israel QME Enhancement Act authored by our colleague, Mr. Collins. It is essential that Congress send a strong signal to Israel and to the world that we remain committed to our relationship with our friend and strategic ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

With Iran still on the path to develop nuclear weapons and the administration putting more pressure on Congress to hold off on increasing sanctions on Iran, rather than verifying that Iran will halt all of its nuclear activity, Israel has every reason to be concerned over her safety. That is why it is crucial that Israel remain not just one step ahead of her enemies in the region, but light years ahead. There is no room for error here. Israel must maintain its qualitative military edge over its foes because her very survival depends on it.

I would also like to commend Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for bringing forward House Resolution 404 to express condolences and support for assistance to the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. I joined a bipartisan congressional letter earlier this week asking the Department of Homeland Security to offer TPS (temporary protected status) to nationals of the Philippines.

And as we continue to assist and provide assistance to the people of the Philippines, we must also learn from our mistakes from the past when it comes to providing assistance after natural disasters.

Our reconstruction efforts after the Haiti earthquake from 2010 are still ongoing, and it is our responsibility to advocate for greater transparency and accountability on the use of U.S. taxpayer dollars. So I join my colleagues Barbara Lee, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel in introducing H.R. 3509, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act.

This important bill calls on the Department of State to submit a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti. The report will help ensure that our assistance dollars to the Haitian people are going to those who really need it, and not to waste, fraud and abuse. Elections in Haiti have been delayed for 2 years—over 2 years—and that is simply unacceptable. This bill reaffirms our commitment to the fundamental principles of holding free, fair, and transparent elections in accordance with the Haitian Constitution.

Passing this legislation, therefore, Mr. Chairman, will send a clear message that we want elections to be scheduled very soon without any more delays in order to improve the political—the volatile political environment in Haiti, and help the lives of the Haitian people. Our south Florida community is blessed to have a vibrant Haitian-American community, and the diaspora keenly follows the developments in Haiti.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. We are going to go to Mr. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, who is recognized now.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member Engel for your leadership and for the bipartisan manner in which we are marking up these bills. I appreciate the smooth and deliberate way in which the package of legislation is being handled and proudly support all the legislation contained in this en bloc package.

In particular, I would like to thank the committee for moving forward on House Resolution 404 regarding the devastation left in the Philippines in the wake of this devastating typhoon. I have expressed my condolences and the sympathy of the First District of Rhode Island and will continue to do so as the death toll rises and damage reports increase.

I want to reiterate that the resolution expresses solidarity with the people of the Philippines and affirms our commitment to provide essential assistance.

Similarly, I have made resources available to my constituents who would like to help those suffering the loss of life and destruction of property in the Philippines.

In addition, as we consider H. Res. 402, supporting the European aspirations of the people of the European Union's Eastern Partnership, I want to stress the importance of the adoption of democratic social norms by these countries along with their economic integration. Over the past several years, we have seen some impressive improvements to the human rights of individuals in Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. While the situation isn't perfect, the trend is generally positive and deserves our ongoing support.

I was pleased that the Moldovan Government took actions last year to reverse some locally passed laws which restricted the rights of all Moldovans who support the human rights of LGBT persons. These local ordinances were passed most all of them under pressure of the local Communist Party or the Eastern Orthodox Church, which is in close contact with the leadership of the Russia Orthodox Church in Moscow.

The human rights of LGBT individuals were further strengthened in Moldova as part of the Eastern Partnership effort. In order to ease travel restrictions and simplify tourist visas for Moldovan citizens to EU countries, the Moldovan Parliament was asked and agreed to pass legislation to ensure that individuals cannot be fired from a job on the basis of his or her sexual orientation or gender identity. Indeed, I look forward to the day when similar legislation will pass here in the United States and in the House of Representatives as it did earlier this month in the Senate with broad bipartisan support.

Improving relations with the European Union does not and should not harm the important relationships these countries have with their largest neighbor, Russia. Unfortunately, Russia has increased threats against Eastern Partnership countries unnecessarily threatening important trade and energy ties. Nevertheless, I am pleased to see several countries take steps to better protect and support religious minorities, LGBT individuals and other marginalized communities. I am thankful for the Eastern Partner-

ship countries that have overcome Russia's efforts to dissuade them from social progress.

In Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, the governments and peoples are quickly realizing that protecting the rights of the minority ensures the fundamental freedoms enjoyed by the majority. Certainly sexual orientation and gender identity remain controversial issues in Eastern Europe, as is the case in some parts of our own country. But we all know that the right to organize, to march, to display pride, is healthy for us as a country. These countries deserve our support and that of the EU. I commend the chairman and ranking member for moving this important piece of legislation and look forward to its passage.

And finally I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1992 that will increase the frequency of review of Israel's qualitative military edge and add to requirements that such reviews include cyber and asymmetric threats. This legislation will enhance our national security interests as we better understand Israel's military capability and ensure that they have the necessary resources for their defense as our most important ally in a very volatile region of the world.

I thank you, Madam Chairman, and yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN [presiding]. Thank you, Mr. Cicilline.

Chairman Smith of New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Let me just say to my colleagues, H. Res. 147, introduced by our distinguished colleague, Dr. Cassidy, is an excellent resolution, but it was introduced in April, and what we are doing in the amendment in the nature of a substitute is expanding from 6 to 18 the whereas clauses and adding one line holding—trying to hold Iran to account—it is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, so international agreements are important and when they sign something, they should be willing to live up to it.

Last March, Congressman Chairman Frank Wolf chaired a hearing that was called the Worsening Plight of Religious Minorities in Iran. His key witness was Naghmeh Abedini, the wife of Saeed Abedini. And I would just like to quote—it is long and I would ask unanimous consent that her full statement be made a part of the record.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Without objection.

Mr. SMITH. Just a couple of lines pulled from that testimony which underscores the awful plight of this great pastor who went back to Iran—he is an American—to establish an orphanage. He was given an assurance by the Government of Iran that he would not be, in any way, interfered with and certainly wouldn't have been arrested. He was accused in the past of proselytizing his Christian faith, and for that he had been beaten, and he is now serving an 8-year sentence. He has been subjected to repeated beatings. He is now in a prison where we are all very fearful for his life. He has several people in his very cell who are convicted murderers. And one of the modus operandi of anyone who has ever worked on human rights know is that both the Communists and many of these dictatorial regimes often put political and religious prisoners, democracy activists, into a prison cell that has people in it who have committed heinous crimes and as a quid pro quo,

“Take care of our problem and you will get a lighter sentence.” It happens over and over again. So we are bringing additional attention to that very serious deterioration of Pastor Abedini’s case.

Here is what Naghmeh said: “We have two kids, Rebekka Grace who is 6 years old and Jacob Cyrus who is 4 years old. A day does not go by that they do not ask for their daddy. A day does not go by that they do not long for him. Most nights, they cry themselves to sleep, wanting daddy home.” She goes on to say it is unfortunate that Christians are the number one persecuted people in the world, but not much attention and effort is being taken to protect their religious liberty. She points out how he went back to establish the orphanage and all of that is in her statement and I summarized it very briefly. She has said Saeed has endured beatings, internal bleeding, death threats, and continuous psychological torture, all because he will not deny his Christian faith.

Naghmeh said, and this was very unfortunate, I must tell you, “I am disappointed in my government. I am disappointed that our President and our State Department have not fully engaged this case—disappointed that this great country is not doing more to free my husband, a U.S. citizen.” She goes on, “Yes, we are both proud to be American citizens. And I expect more from our government.”

As a direct result of that hearing and her testimony, I am happy to report that Secretary of State Kerry did make an intervention, as did the State Department, but this needs to be ongoing, consistent and persistent, and certainly sustained in order to effectuate his release.

I do hope members will support the resolution, they already have because we are now on the debate portion. But this man needs to be freed, and his plight needs to be echoed throughout parliaments throughout the world in Europe and elsewhere on his behalf.

And secondly, Madam Chair, I would just like to say I strongly endorse a resolution expressing our empathy and sympathy for all those have who suffered from the typhoon. Yes, there have been approximately 4,000 deaths, 10,000 people who have been now affected by this horrific storm.

The United Nations has suggested, made a call for \$301 million. The United States has come forward with \$37 million. The Catholic Relief Services alone, one NGO, and they just had a massive collection in every Catholic church throughout the country to raise this money, has pledged \$20 million.

I would respectfully submit \$37 million needs to be looked at as a down payment. The needs are overwhelming and my hope is that we will be more generous. The same thing happened during the tsunami in 2004 and I traveled to Banda Aceh, Phuket, and Sri Lanka, and many of us who came back were very concerned that our paltry commitment in 2004 in no way came near to what was needed. I see a déjà vu occurring here, Madam Chair. We need to do more. There are assessment teams on the ground. My hope is that the Congress will robustly support the Filipino people.

Two major problems, and I will be very brief in this. I am very concerned about the trafficking situation there and we have asked a number of questions about what is being done to mitigate any trafficking under the chaos of the storm. And, secondly, very often, and this happened in Haiti, the higher death count is attributed to

typhoid, cholera, and other diseases that manifest after the fact. I am not convinced we are doing enough to ensure that people are properly protected from the epidemics that could ensue in the days and weeks that follow. I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Smith.

Mr. Schneider of Illinois.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I want to thank Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for the bipartisan leadership they have shown and continue to show on this committee and the committee itself for its example of collaboration that should be a lesson for us all.

I am pleased to support all of these bipartisan measures. I join with my colleagues in extending condolences to the people of the Philippines in the aftermath of the typhoon.

Specifically, I wish to speak on the H.R. 1992, the Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act. I am most grateful for the collaboration of my friend, Mr. Collins. I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for working diligently with my office and Representative Collins to bring this important legislation before the committee.

Israel stands at a historic juncture. It is in an increasingly dangerous neighborhood at an increasingly dangerous time. Israel must have the capabilities to deal with a broad spectrum of potential threats.

That is why we introduced this important and timely bill to help further safeguard the technological edge that Israel has and must always have in defending the country and safeguarding her citizens. This bill expands upon existing requirements that the United States aid Israel in developing defense systems capable of safeguarding our most important regional ally, Israel, against both conventional and asymmetrical threats.

Significant examples of this cooperation include the highly successful, game-changing Iron Dome anti-missile system, as well as the ongoing development of the Arrow and David's Sling. Israel now faces dramatically evolving threats of regional insecurity, including a virtual failed state on its border with Syria, tens of thousands of rockets and mortars being stockpiled by Hezbollah on the north, continued rocket fire from Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and increasing terrorist activity in the Sinai. But most importantly the existential threat of Iran and its nuclear program. The U.S. can and will continue to do more to aid Israel in addressing all these threats in a comprehensive way.

The bill before us today would specifically encourage greater coordination between Israel and United States in developing new weapons, tactics and procedures to confront the growing threats of cyber warfare, asymmetrical military threats, and ongoing terrorist activity. Increased reporting and coordination will allow the United States and Israel to continue their mutually beneficial research and intelligence programs to save lives and create a more secure and prosperous region.

I want to, again, thank the chair and ranking member for their support of this legislation. I also want to thank Mr. Collins for the hard work we have done to hone this bill over the last few months.

I ask that my colleagues join me in support of this bill and the others today and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir. Mr. Marino of Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. MARINO. Thank you, Chairwoman. I want to address House Resolution 402 supporting the EU's Eastern Partnership countries. The bill would express Congress' support for the expansion of the EU to include Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine. Russia does not like this possibility. Russia wants to continue to control the former Soviet states, and Russia sees the European Union expansion as a threat to Russia's power in the region.

Russia is doing all it can to stop these former Soviet states from siding with Western countries, in part by cutting off natural gas to these countries or spiking the cost of natural gas and by pushing these countries to enter trade compacts with Russia if—if they promise not to enter into similar agreements with the EU.

I support the efforts of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to enter into agreements with the European Union. I also hope the administration expresses similar support and takes the steps necessary to ensure it in a smooth and easy transition.

I yield back my time. Thank you.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you sir. Mr. Connolly of Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I, of course, support all of the bills on our agenda. I particularly highlight the Haiti legislation. This is a country devastated by an earthquake, and its recovery has been slow and painful and uneven at best. There are issues about coordination among NGOs, there are issues about frankly the distribution of our own bilateral assistance, there are issues about the multilateral response to this tragedy. This is a country that is not far away. It is in our backyard. And if we can't get coordinated assistance when we have had this kind of tragic development right in our own backyard, I think it calls into question the efficacy of our ability to deliver aid effectively anywhere. And so I think it is really important we focus on Haiti, and I am delighted to see this legislation on the agenda, and I would hope that the committee would continue to monitor this very carefully as we move forward.

I yield back. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS. Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the willingness of the chairman and you, as well, in your willingness to work with me on this important bipartisan bill. I want to thank the committee, and really this committee is one of the few places I believe left in Congress where we do have bipartisanship as the norm and not the exception, and that is always a good thing to see.

I would also like to thank my friend from Illinois, Mr. Schneider, and his staff for their work on this legislation. It is amazing when we work together and what your staff has done and the others who have come across on this bill has been really good to see along with the chairman and the ranking member who have been so good friends with this as well. So I want to thank you for all your hard work.

The U.S. has stood with Israel from its inception 65 years ago, and our countries remain close allies for a good reason. America and Israel share many of the same goals. Both countries have strong expressed desire to protect their citizens from harm, to promote the principles of democracy, and to promote a stable and prosperous Middle East. The benefits of the Israeli-American relationship are undeniable. Our alliance has been vital for each nation's intelligence gathering efforts resulting in many lives saved.

I introduced H.R. 1992 because I believe that America's support for Israel must be responsive to the changing threats facing our allies. This week the United States and other member nations are meeting to discuss Iran's nuclear program. Iran's ambitions are no secret, and they currently possess the proper quantity and type of materials to make nuclear weapons.

But Iran's nuclear program is not the only threat to Israel. I am very concerned by the cyber threats attacks that have been launched against the country. Nations in the region are increasingly using cyber warfare as a means to cripple infrastructure and violently disrupt the security of this peace-loving nation.

H.R. 1992 directs the President to report to Congress every 2 years—current law requires for it every 4 years—regarding the assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats to Israel and related weapons sales in the Middle East.

Additionally, it directs the Secretary of State to report on cyber and asymmetric threats in reference to Israel. I believe this legislation represents an effective way to promote U.S.-Israeli relationships in a bipartisan manner. Given recent developments in the region, there is no better time to ensure that Congress has the most complete and up-to-date information regarding Israel's qualitative military edge.

The very real threats of cyber attacks and asymmetrical warfare in Israel must be taken into account as our nations continue to fight against terrorism in the 21st century.

This legislation ensures that the United States' commitment to Israel's qualitative military edge remains substantial and meaningful. It provides Congress the ability to continue its oversight of weapons sales to the Middle East at an increased regularity by reviewing arms sales from 4 to 2 years.

I am very appreciative to the chairman for allowing this piece of legislation to come before the committee. Ranking Member Engel, your support brings increased probity to the bill. And Mr. Schneider, you have been, again, such a great partner on this relationship. You are such a dedicated advocate for U.S.-Israeli relationships as it stands, and I, like too many here, and also Ms. Gabbard, I also appreciate your early support of this legislation, as well. And I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. LOWENTHAL of California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I join with my colleagues in thanking Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for conducting these—all the hearings on the Foreign Affairs Committee in such a bipartisan way. It really is a pleasure to come to this committee. And I also want to express, voice my support for all the bills. But I would really like to talk about one aspect of H.R.

3470, which is the Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments, but that specific part of the H.R. 3470. And I want to thank Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel and your staff for your working on this bill.

The title 2 of H.R. 3470 contains important improvements in the licensing of U.S. exports under the Arms Export Control Act. These improvements that are included in this bill will streamline our congressional review of pending licenses by focusing our committee's oversight on major defense transfers. This is accomplished by updating the dollar thresholds under the Arms Export Control Act for export cases that are subject to congressional scrutiny.

This is the first updating in many years. When enacted, this will focus congressional attention on the truly important defense exports. Many of the U.S. companies that export defense articles are located in southern California especially in and near my congressional district. The California aerospace industry will definitely benefit from this bill. In addition, the Port of Long Beach, which I represent, will also definitely benefit by a more efficient export licensing procedure, speeding approvals and contributing to U.S. firms winning more export sales.

While streamlining defense export licensing, this bill also adjusts the congressional review process to benefit with the reforms that the Obama administration is now beginning to implement under its Export Control Reform Initiative.

In sum, this bill makes improvements for American defense exporters and focuses congressional oversight on the significant transfers that warrant close scrutiny.

Madam Chair, I yield back my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir. Mr. Meadows of North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. MEADOWS. Thank you Madam Chair.

And I just want to thank my colleagues, Mr. Collins from Georgia and Mr. Schneider, for working so diligently on H.R. 1992. Early on, they worked with the committee here who just have done an outstanding job in making sure not only this legislation is ready to be brought to the floor, but that it addresses the key concerns in terms of our allies. So I just want to thank the gentlemen, and obviously it has my support.

I want to speak briefly, though, on Pastor Saeed Abedini. It is very troubling that here we are in the middle of negotiations with Iran, and a pastor is being held, quite frankly, in a very dangerous situation, a gesture of good will by that country that would transcend not only just one state to another, but much of our Nation and show that, indeed, that our two countries are ready for some type of bilateral talks on a foundation of mutual respect, you would think that releasing Pastor Saeed Abedini would be an easy lift. And yet here we are having to pass a resolution condemning that action.

And, Madam Chair, you have been a strong voice for those who are held in foreign countries against the international norms that are there. I applaud you on your unrelenting voice. I join you and urge the Iranian people to look at this injustice and let Pastor Saeed Abedini go.

I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Keating of Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KEATING. Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to voice my support for all the initiatives on today's markup but I would like to thank, in particular, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for working with me on House Resolution 402. As an original cosponsor and as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, I believe it is important for the United States to show its support for the European aspirations of the six Eastern Partnership countries.

Next week in Vilnius at the summit, three of these countries are poised to take truly historic steps forward. Twenty-five years ago, no one could have imagined that Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, then Soviet Republics, would be on the verge of signing or initialing association agreements with the European Union. Their laudable progress demonstrates each country's resilience and the strengths of their citizenry's desire for a transparent governance and a rule of law.

In addition to the association agreements, which include a key free trade component, the EU recently launched the Eastern Partnership transport network to improve the roads, rails and ports of the Eastern Partnership countries and to link them with the EU's own transportation system.

I strongly believe the United States should support the Eastern Partnership transport network by working closely with the EU, international donors and hosts of countries to improve their infrastructure and regulatory mechanisms to facilitate more trade with the EU between Europe and Asia. This will also support the broader "New Silk Road" vision that is coming to connect Central and South Asia to larger markets and help transform the northern distribution network, also known as the NDN, into a viable, commercial corridor.

Although these agreements and initiatives pose no threat to other countries, Russia has sought to undermine Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia and threaten to retaliate further if they move forward with association agreements with the EU.

Madam Chairman, it is important for the United States to support Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine at this historic moment. It is equally important that we make clear that Russia's behavior in this regard is unacceptable.

With that, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE [presiding]. We thank the gentleman for yielding back. I think we have two remaining speakers, our Western Hemisphere chairman, Matt Salmon from Arizona, followed by Mr. Deutch from Florida.

Mr. SALMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, I want to commend you and the entire committee for all of this bipartisan legislation today, which I believe it has been said before that this is probably one of the last committees in all of Congress that does things in such a bipartisan way, and I think it is wonderful. It is a good example to set for the other committees, as well.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for working with me and accepting my amendments strengthening some of the reporting re-

quirements for the H.R. 3509. The Haitian funding bill is incredibly important, but it is important, also, that we make sure that our taxpayers are actually getting what they expected and what they are paying for when it comes to getting money to a very, very badly needed place in the globe and in the hemisphere.

This language that Mark Walker was able to strengthen and put together I believe makes it clear that the USAID and taxpayer funds must be spent wisely and in accordance with the policies that are outlined in this bill.

In addition, I appreciate the opportunity to work with committee staff on the other side of the aisle, as well. I know that Mark was able to lead a staff delegation over there not so long ago and found while there are still some troubling things, there are some very positive things. And we want to focus on both of those things.

When the 2010 earthquake struck our neighbors in Haiti, the U.S. was swift with our response and promised to be a major part of the long-term recovery process. Our citizens have been generous in both the \$3.6 billion in taxpayer funds dedicated to the recovery, but also billions in private funds have flown to assist Haitian recovery to help them rebuild.

But it is our obligation here in Congress to make sure these funds are spent efficiently, effectively and transparently. After the GAO's critical report, this bill will help to address the lack of transparency and accountability that our aid to Haiti has suffered to date. As we learned from our hearing in our subcommittee last month, Haiti has a long way to go in their recovery, and it is important that the Haitian Government work diligently to improve the investment climate in their country and move toward free and fair elections and make sure that a democratic process moves forward.

I have been very, very disappointed in reports from the government that are harassing U.S. companies who are trying to do business in the country, and sadly reports like that are going to have a long-term impact on investment in Haiti.

I believe that if they want to go forward in a very, very positive way, they have got to improve the rule of law there, make sure that they don't shake down foreign business interests. And finally, as incorporated in this bill, I strongly urge the Government of Haiti to move forward with those elections as soon as possible. The people of Haiti deserve a voice in their government, and I think it is just plain fair and common sense, but thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Salmon. I want to thank you for your excellent contribution to the focus on Haiti and also for promoting trade investment in this hemisphere. And we appreciate that very much.

We are going to go turn now to recognize Ted Deutch of Florida.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to lend my support to these good bills. I would like to thank Congressman Collins and Congressman Schneider for introducing the Israel QME Enhancement Act. This bipartisan legislation emphasizes Congress' commitment to ensur-

ing Israel's qualitative military edge, a central component of Israel's security.

We talk a lot about the importance of bipartisanship in Congress when it comes to Israel's security, and it is thanks to members like Mr. Schneider and Mr. Collins that we can work across the aisle to further this kind of critical cooperation and I applaud their efforts.

The United States has committed to ensuring Israel's right and ability to defend herself against any threat, period. But in its violent neighborhood, Israel can face threats at each of her borders at any moment from the risk of spillover from the Syrian conflict, rockets from Hamas and Hezbollah, and the ever present existential threat from potentially nuclear-armed Iran.

This legislation will provide Congress with greater oversight when it comes to Israel's qualitative military edge. By the increasing reporting requirements on QME from every 4 years to every 2 years, we can continue to ensure that our great ally, Israel, has the capabilities to counter any and all threats.

In addition, it is the strategic cooperation with Israel that ensures greater interoperability with our own military to defend our security interests in the region.

I also want to express my support for H. Res. 147 which condemns the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities, including Saeed Abedini. The recent reports that Pastor Abedini was recently moved to a more dangerous facility outside of Tehran further demonstrates the U.S. must do everything in our power to end his continued and unjust imprisonment. However, this markup also provides an opportunity to highlight what is not being talked about in Geneva—Iran's egregious human rights violations.

While preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capabilities is our paramount objective, it should not impact our support for human rights in Iran. Iran's vile mistreatment of its people is not new. But since taking office, President Rouhani has spoken about the need to repair Iran's relationships with the world and ensure the rights of his people.

Unfortunately, his rhetoric has not been matched with action. Hundreds of political prisoners remain in prison. This year alone, more than 500 Iranians have been executed double—double Ahmadinejad's last year in office.

In the past month, there has been a stunning wave of oppression targeting the media and civil society that included the banning of a prominent reformist daily and the arrest of a prominent and politically-minded actress.

Iran is also suspected of having significant knowledge as to the whereabouts of my constituent, Robert Levinson. As many of you know, in March 2007, Robert Levinson was taken hostage while visiting Iran's Kish Island. A retired FBI agent, husband, father to seven children, and grandfather of two, Mr. Levinson has missed 6 years' worth of birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and other important milestones. Next Tuesday, Robert Levinson will have been held captive for 2,455 days making him the longest held American hostage in our Nation's history.

Now as Iran continues to flagrantly violate basic human rights, we must continue to press Iran to treat their people with due process and with fairness, and we must act to ensure the release of all political prisoners, including Pastor Abedini, Amir Hekmati, and we must do everything we can to bring Robert Levinson home to his family. This markup is an important step.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you, the ranking member and Congresswoman Lee for introducing H.R. 3509, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2013. We are privileged to have a strong Haitian diaspora in south Florida, and I know how much they appreciate Congress' commitment to reconstruction and stabilization efforts in Haiti. We must continue to provide strong oversight to ensure that our aid dollars are helping Haiti rebuild critical infrastructure, promote good governance and rule of law and provide much-needed access to health care and to education.

Again, I thank all of the bill's sponsors, and I look forward to the final passage of this good legislation.

Chairman ROYCE. Well, thank you Mr. Deutch.

Hearing no further requests for recognition, the question now occurs on agreeing to the items being considered en bloc: All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[Ayes.]

Opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair the ayes have it and the items are considered en bloc and agreed to. And without objection the measures agreed to en bloc, House Resolution 147, as amended; 402, as amended; 404, as amended; 1992, as amended; 3470; and 3509, as amended, these measures are considered favorably reported to the House.

Staff are directed to make technical and conforming changes. And just in closing, I want to thank our ranking member, Mr. Engel, and all of the committee members for their contributions and for their assistance in today's markup.

The committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11 o'clock a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

**FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128**

Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman

November 20, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Wednesday, November 20, 2013

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H. Res. 147, Calling for the release of United States citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities;

H. Res. 402, Supporting the European aspirations of the peoples of the European Union's Eastern Partnership countries, and for other purposes;

H. Res. 404, Expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan which made landfall in the Republic of the Philippines on November 8, 2013;


H.R. 1992, Israel Qualitative Military Edge Enhancement Act;

H.R. 3470, The Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act of 2013; and

H.R. 3509, Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2013.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Day Wednesday Date 11/20/13 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:05 A.M. Ending Time 11:00 A.M.

Recesses 0 (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Rep. Edward R. Royce, Chairman

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Televised ☒

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☒

Stenographic Record ☒

BILLS FOR MARKUP: (Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

H. Res. 464 H. Res. 147

H. Res. 402 H.R. 1992

H.R. 3470 H.R. 3509

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

See Attendance Sheet.

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

None.

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record.)

None.

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)

See Markup Summary.

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
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TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or

TIME ADJOURNED 11:00 A.M.



Doug Anderson, General Counsel

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Full Committee Markup

<i>Present</i>	<i>Member</i>
X	Edward R. Royce, CA
X	Christopher H. Smith, NJ
X	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL
	Dana Rohrabacher, CA
X	Steve Chabot, OH
	Joe Wilson, SC
	Michael T. McCaul, TX
X	Ted Poe, TX
X	Matt Salmon, AZ
X	Tom Marino, PA
X	Jeff Duncan, SC
	Adam Kinzinger, IL
X	Mo Brooks, AL
X	Tom Cotton, AR
X	Paul Cook, CA
X	George Holding, NC
X	Randy K. Weber, Sr., TX
X	Scott Perry, PA
X	Steve Stockman, TX
	Ron DeSantis, FL
	Trey Radel, FL
X	Doug Collins, GA
X	Mark Meadows, NC
X	Ted S. Yoho, FL
X	Luke Messer, IN

<i>Present</i>	<i>Member</i>
X	Eliot L. Engel, NY
	Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, AS
	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
	Albio Sires, NJ
X	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
X	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
	Brian Higgins, NY
	Karen Bass, CA
X	William Keating, MA
X	David Cicilline, RI
	Alan Grayson, FL
	Juan Vargas, CA
X	Bradley S. Schneider, IL
	Joseph P. Kennedy III, MA
	Ami Bera, CA
X	Alan S. Lowenthal, CA
	Grace Meng, NY
	Lois Frankel, FL
X	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
	Joaquin Castro, TX

11/20/13 Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary

The Chair called up the following measures for consideration by the Committee. By unanimous consent, the six measures and six amendments (previously provided to Members of the Committee) were considered *en bloc*:

1. H.Res. 147 (Cassidy), "Calling for the release of United States citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities."
 - a. As amended by Smith 40 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. Smith).
2. H.Res. 402 (Engel), "Supporting the European aspirations of the peoples of the European Union's Eastern Partnership countries, and for other purposes."
 - a. As amended by Engel 46 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. Engel).
3. H.Res. 404 (Royce-Engel), "Expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan which made landfall in the Republic of the Philippines on November 8, 2013."
 - a. As amended by Royce 64 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Chairman Royce).
4. H.R. 1992 (Collins-GA), "Israel QME Enhancement Act."
 - a. As amended by Collins 29 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Mr. Collins-GA).
5. H.R. 3470 (Royce-Engel), "The Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act of 2013."
6. H.R. 3509 (Lee-Royce-Engel), "Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2013."
 - a. As amended by Royce 63; and
 - b. As amended by Salmon 29.

The measures and respective amendments were adopted by voice vote. By unanimous consent, the measures (as amended) were ordered favorably reported to the House.

The Committee adjourned.

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE EDWARD R. ROYCE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Statement for the Record


*Submitted on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus by
Chairman Edward R. Royce*

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Reps. Jim Gerlach, Marcy Kaptur and Sandy Levin support the passage of H.Res.402, supporting the European aspirations of the people of the European Union's (EU) Eastern Partnership countries, and to express continued support for Ukraine as it moves closer to signing the EU Association Agreement.

In order for Ukraine to progress democratically and economically, it is imperative that the conditions of this agreement, as jointly initialed by the EU and Ukraine, are fully met—in law and in practice.

The critical November 28-29 Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania is quickly approaching, bringing with it the deadline for signing the Association Agreement. Accordingly, we urge the U.S. Department of State to advance all appropriate opportunities for cooperation with Ukraine to address the remaining required reforms, including electoral and rule of law reforms as well as issues related to selective justice, particularly the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Along with the clear democratic and economic benefits, we believe these reforms, coupled with international monitoring and oversight, provide the best opportunity to ensure free and fair elections in Ukraine in 2015 and beyond.

Consistent with our support for H.Res.402, we applaud the EU's progress—much of it through the Eastern Partnership program—in helping to build democratic, prosperous, and stable societies throughout Eastern Europe and the Caucuses. Building on that progress is in the national interest of the United States; consequently, we call on the U.S. Department of State to direct needed resources to help support Ukraine's European choice.



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PREPARED TESTIMONY OF

Naghmeh Abedini

Wife of Imprisoned American Pastor in Iran

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

March 15, 2013

“The Worsening Plight of Religious Minorities in Iran”

My name is Naghmeh Abedini. My husband, Saeed Abedini, who is an American citizen has been sentenced to 8 years in prison inside of Iran because of his conversion from Islam to Christianity. We have two kids, Rebekka Grace who is 6 years old, and Jacob Cyrus who is 4 years old. A day does not go by that they do not ask for their daddy. A day does not go by that they do not long for him. Most nights they cry themselves to sleep, wanting daddy home. I have not had the heart to tell them of the 8 year sentence. I am hoping that I will not have to tell them of the 8 year sentence. I am hoping that we can bring Saeed home soon.

I came to the USA in March of 1986 due to the Iran and Iraq war. I converted from Islam to Christianity a year later in 1987. I have been so blessed to be an American. America has given me the most amazing gift of allowing me religious freedom. I am proud to be an American because of this religious freedom. I would have never been given this freedom if I had lived in Iran. I only hope and pray that our country will continue to stand up for what is right. That our country would continue to stand up for religious liberty and be a world leader and a leading voice in this world for religious liberty.

It is unfortunate that Christians are the number one persecuted people in the world, but not much attention and effort is taken to protect their religious liberty. I was first faced with this harsh reality of being persecuted for my Christian faith when I decided to visit Iran in November of 2001. I felt called to go back to Iran as a young Christian girl, in order to share the love and saving Grace of Jesus Christ. My hope was that I could offer the same hope, peace, and love to those in Iran that I had found in Jesus.

I met Saeed in the year 2002, two years after he had converted from Islam to Christianity and we were married in June of 2004. Because of our conversions to Christianity and the persecution of converts in Iran, Saeed and I ministered to a network of Christians in house churches all over Iran. But from day one, we were continually harassed and threatened because of our Christian faith. After Ahmadinejad became president in June of 2004, he vowed to root out Christianity in Iran. Saeed and I were forced to leave Iran in November of 2005 because of increased persecution and imprisonment of Christians.

Saeed loved America and the American people from day one of his arrival. Saeed became a US citizen in the year 2010. I remember Saeed saying it was one of the best days of his life and he was so proud to be an American. He was so excited, he announced it on his social media and soon after, a flag was sent to him from Senator Carl Levin's office for the occasion of Saeed becoming a citizen (*see attached*). He was so proud!

Although Saeed enjoyed being in the US very much, he continued to have a heart for the people of Iran and those he had left behind. So, in the summer of 2009 we decided to go to Iran as a family and for the kids to be able to see their grandparents. As we were leaving the country 3 weeks later, Saeed was taken by the Intelligence Police at the airport while I and his two children were sent back to the US. After months of interrogations, the Intelligence Police allowed Saeed to return to the US, and agreed he could freely come and go from Iran, so long as he promised not to continue leading Christians in the house churches. Saeed agreed. But because of his love for the Iranian people, including the least of these – the orphans and the widows – Saeed sought new ways to serve the people of Iran. Before Saeed returned to the US, the Iranian government encouraged Saeed to do humanitarian efforts and promised that he would be free to travel back and forth to Iran in order to work on an orphanage and to visit his parents, siblings and other relatives. To this day, Saeed has fulfilled his promise.

Although Saeed fulfilled his promise, the Iranian government did not. Saeed visited Iran in July of 2012 in the hopes of completing the orphanage building and necessary paperwork. On July 28, 2012, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard took Saeed off of a bus and took his passport. He was told he was being put under house arrest and was not allowed to travel back to our family in the US. The Revolutionary Guard told him he was to wait for a court date to face charges for his Christian activities. But what activities? He had kept his agreement. They would not give Saeed clear answers. Finally, on September 26, 2012, early in the morning as Saeed waited for his court hearing, 5 revolutionary guards raided the house where he was staying and took Saeed.

This is when our family's true nightmare began. For days we did not know where he had been taken. Though we were relieved to hear his whereabouts, to learn he had been put in Evin prison brought flashbacks of family members and friends who were executed, raped, and tortured in Evin.

In Evin, Saeed has endured beatings, internal bleeding, death threats, and continued psychological torture all because he will not deny his Christian faith. I found out on January 27, 2013, that Saeed was sentenced to spend 8 years in this prison – all because his Christian faith and peaceful religious gathering are allegedly a threat to Iran.

Saeed holds to what he believes and will not give in under any pressure from the Revolutionary Guards. He is standing up for religious freedom in a country that has no respect for human rights. Are we going to stand with him? Are we going to stand up as country and protect a citizen whose human right of religious freedom is so clearly violated? Americans are not all Christians; but *every American* – regardless of their beliefs – wants to be reassured and know that our government will take decisive action to protect us if someone uses force to try to make us abandon or change our beliefs.

I must tell you that I am disappointed with my government. I am disappointed that our President and our State Department have not fully engaged this case – disappointed that this great country is not doing more to free my husband, a U.S. citizen. Yes, we are both proud to be American citizens. And I expect more from our government.

As Dietrick Bonhoeffer said, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” Let the answer ring out that we will stand up proudly for this right on which our country was founded.

Saeed is a husband and amazing father. The kids and I miss him terribly. Our kids hold onto the hope of seeing their daddy very soon. The truth is we do not know if we will ever speak to him or see him again. Many mornings they wake up and start running around the house and in the yard. I ask them what they are doing and they say very disappointed “it must have been a dream. We saw daddy was home and he was going to twirl us around.” I hold back my tears as I tell them that it was a dream. I still do not have the heart to tell them that if we don’t do anything, that daddy might never survive the horrific Evin prison. I do not have the heart to tell them of the 8 year sentence. I do hope we can work together to bring Saeed home and I will never have to tell my kids of the dire situation their father is in.

